



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
THE MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

8 Sep 2022

Chief,

Congratulations on your selection! You've joined a privileged group tasked with leading our Navy during extraordinary times. Initiation is not something you endure, it is a challenge to overcome to prepare you for what the Navy will ask and demand from you every day.

You come from a legacy of Chief Petty Officers who knew that in a crisis, circumstances often change, and the Chief must be prepared to pivot to a new priority. Now is not a time for you to retreat into the chaos, rather set a fierce pace above, on and below the sea, projecting strength so profoundly that we give pause to anyone who would dare challenge us.

Your leadership success will be based on your ability to connect with those you lead. Coach, encourage, and challenge your team. Strive to provide professional and personal development opportunities. Consistent leadership is not only rewarded with trust, it also contributes to the betterment of the organization and strengthens lethality of our combat teams.

A unit reflects its leader. The Chief is expected to be the bearer of and enforce the standard. This charge sounds easy, but to have success, you must know and be able to correct procedures, policies, and standards. You must also know when and how to speak up and advocate on behalf of our Sailors.

Stay physically, mentally, and emotionally fit. Chiefs don't ask our warriors to do anything that we are not willing to do. Resiliency of the mind and body are ingrained over time. Our warriors must be resilient to compete and succeed in daily operations. They must also be ready to fight and win. It falls on the Chief to prepare them.

Be involved in the Mess because I will need your help "steering the course" to keep our Navy at the forefront and our warriors fully trained, qualified and proficient in their technical abilities. Take advantage of the sage wisdom and sound advice of those that have gone before you.

While you are going through this transition and developing into one of our top leaders, I ask that you reflect on this milestone. Remember that you didn't get here all on your own. Take time to thank your loved ones to show your appreciation for their selfless sacrifice and support. They provide the balance needed to effectively accomplish the increased challenges that lie ahead. My wife, Evelyn is what provides me with greatest purpose, inspiration, and what has made every moment of celebration sweeter!

Remember, you are here on purpose. You were chosen to be the leader our Navy needs. I know each of you are ready to take on this next challenge, succeed, and be the Chief.

Welcome to the Mess!

MCPON James M. Honea
16th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy